

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1-27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently amended) A system for delivering a contraceptive device within a fallopian tube, the system comprising:

a catheter comprising:

an elongate tubular catheter body having a proximal portion adjacent a proximal end of the catheter body, a distal portion adjacent a distal end of the catheter body, and at least one lumen;

at least one coil disposed along the catheter body and encircling the lumen,

wherein the coil is disposed nearer the distal end of the catheter body than the proximal end of the catheter body and extends along the distal portion and the proximal portion; and

wherein the distal portion has varying degrees of flexibility determined by constraining the coil;

~~an elongate tubular catheter body having a proximal portion adjacent a proximal end, a distal portion adjacent a distal end, and~~

~~at least one lumen; and at least one coil disposed along the catheter body nearer the distal end than the proximal end and encircling the lumen, wherein the distal portion has varying degrees of flexibility determined by constraining the coil and is adapted to couple to a contraceptive device;~~

a contraceptive device releasably disposed at least partially within the lumen of the catheter near the distal portion; and

a deployment member in detachable engagement with the contraceptive device for deploying the contraceptive device from the catheter.

29. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 28, wherein the distal portion of the catheter body is more flexible towards the distal end of the catheter body than towards the proximal end of the catheter body.

30. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 29, wherein the distal portion of the catheter body comprises multiple layers, and the at least one coil comprises one of the layers.

31. (Original) A system as in claim 30, wherein the multiple layers comprise:
an inner layer;
a middle layer; and
an outer layer.

32. (Original) A system as in claim 31, wherein the middle layer comprises the coil.

33. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 32, wherein the coil comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of nickel-titanium alloy, stainless steel, titanium and a polymer.

34. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 31, wherein the inner layer comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene, etched polytetrafluoroethylene and a fluoropolymer.

35. (Original) A system as in claim 31, wherein the outer layer comprises at least one polyurethane material.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Original) A system as in claim 29, wherein the distal portion comprises:
a first segment; and
at least a second segment distal to the first segment,
wherein the second segment is more flexible than the first segment.

38. (Original) A system as in claim 37, further comprising a third segment distal to the second segment, wherein the third segment is more flexible than the second segment.

39. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 29, wherein the distal portion comprises:

an inner layer;
a middle layer; and
an outer layer.

40. (Original) A system as in claim 39, wherein the middle layer comprises the coil and the outer layer comprises at least one polyurethane material.

41. (Original) A system as in claim 40, wherein the at least one polyurethane material comprises at least two polyurethane materials for conferring varying levels of flexibility to the distal portion.

42. (Original) A system as in claim 40, wherein the at least one polyurethane material has an increasing amount of flexibility from a proximal end of the distal portion to the distal end of the distal portion.

43. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 28, wherein the proximal portion of ~~the catheter body~~ includes at least one visualization marker near the distal portion for enhancing visualization of a proximal-most end of the distal portion.

44. (Original) A system as in claim 43, wherein the visualization marker comprises at least one radiopaque material.

45-54 (Cancelled).

55. (New) A system as in claim 28, further comprising a hydrophilic coating formed over the distal portion.

56. (New) A system as in claim 28, wherein the distal portion has varying degrees of flexibility determined by constraining the coil with a layer having varying durometer ratings.

57. (New) A system as in claim 28, wherein the lumen extends through the proximal portion and the distal portion, and the lumen includes a tapered region where the lumen extends through the proximal portion.

58. (New) A system as in claim 57, wherein the proximal portion joins the distal portion, and the proximal portion further comprises a visualization marker where the proximal portion joins the distal portion.